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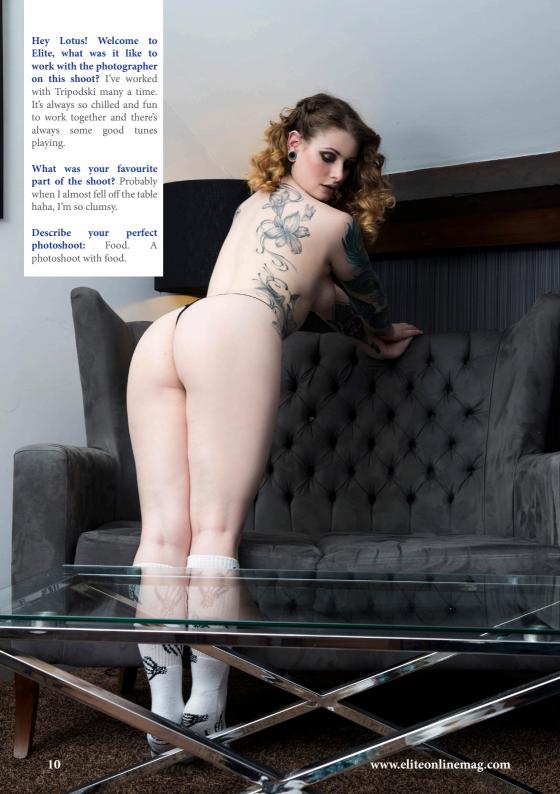




























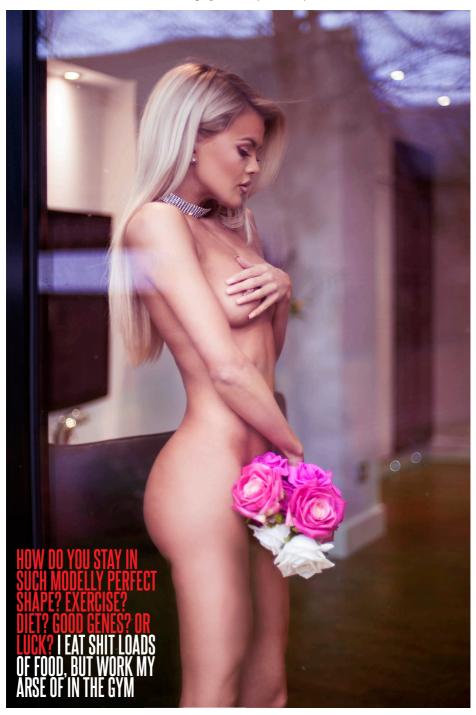








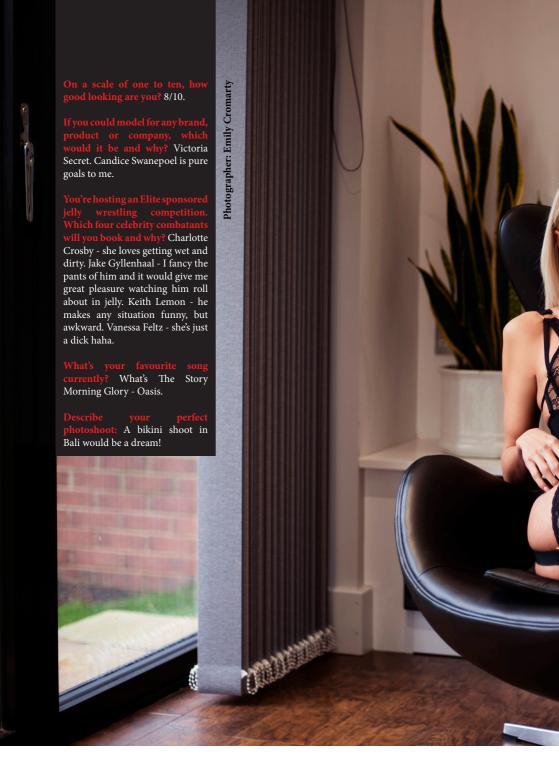












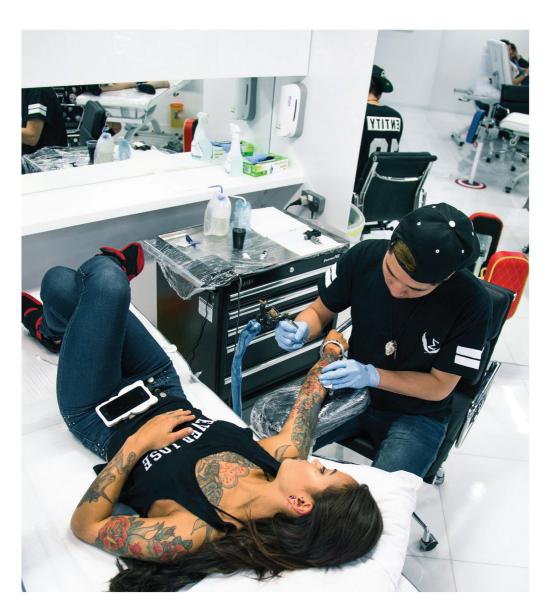








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Hey! Welcome to Elite, tell us a bit about yourself: Hi my name is Deannah, Dee for short and I'm 18 years old. I've been a dancer for 15 years and have just taken some time out to pursue a modeling career as I have always loved posing in front of a camera, it's a good way to express yourself a bit like dancing really. I love socializing and meeting people and in my spare time when I'm not working at my local pub I'm out with my friends having girlie catch ups over a nice glass of rosé and spending time doing a little retail therapy.

What was it like to work with the photographer on this shoot? Lana Parker is amazing, very friendly, welcoming and relaxing. You can tell she is passionate about her work through the images; she has a good eye for detail.









What was your favourite part of the shoot? I think the favourite part for me would have to be the music we had playing in the background, like I said before it's a good way to express yourself and most definitely works on a photoshoot. We were both feeling the music on the day, boogieing away to the tunes.

If you could model for any brand, product or company, which would it be and why? I've always had a passion for Ann Summers; on several occasions I applied for a part time job in my local town, but didn't hear anything. The majority of my lingerie is Ann Summers, such a wide variety, classy, erotic, sexy and not overly priced either. I simply love the brand

You're hosting an Elite sponsored jelly wrestling competition. Which four celebrity combatants will you book and why? That's easy, Megan McKenna, Danielle Armstrong, Scarlet Moffatt and Chloe Ferry simply because their feisty, strong minded, quite down to earth and seem to be up for a challenge. The audience would certainly be kept entertained.

What's your favourite song currently? Little Mix-"Touch"

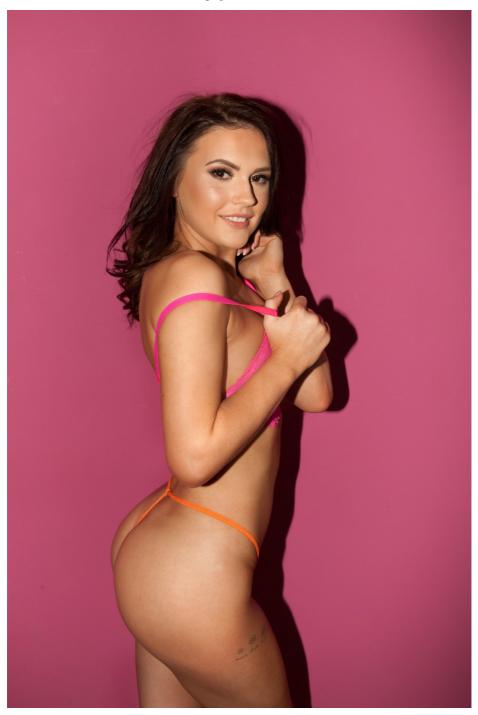
What would you like Elite readers to take away from your pictures in our illustrious mag? Just be yourself, believe in your qualities, it's not always about quantity but quality. If you have a dream follow it, don't ever give up, take criticism on the chin, don't see it as a knock back take it as guidance, it will help you with self confidence for the future.

What's a guaranteed turn on for you? Dressing up in my sexy underwear for my man, can really get you in the mood.

Describe your perfect photoshoot: Having a good working bond with the photographer from the onset is crucial I think, expressing tasty, fun, ideas and suggestions. Photographers like a model with a bit of confidence that can be worked on, I wouldn't suggest to be too overly confident.

How do you stay in such modelly perfect shape? Exercise? Diet? Good genes? Or luck? Having been a dancer for all those years my fitness and diet has had to be strict and consistent to maintain a dancers physique. Since having a break from dance I felt that regular exercise down the gym is a good way to continue staying fit.

What do you like most about Elite? Elite is very tasteful and offers inspiration to readers across the board.





















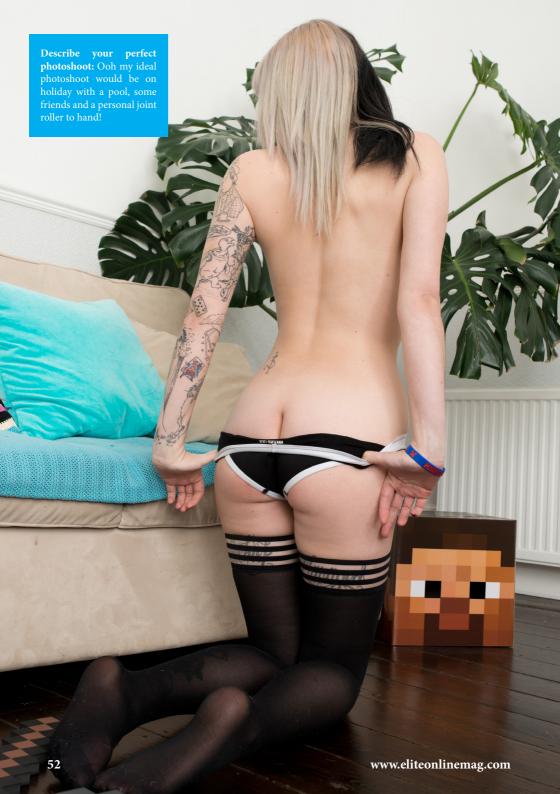


Photographer: Gemma Edwards













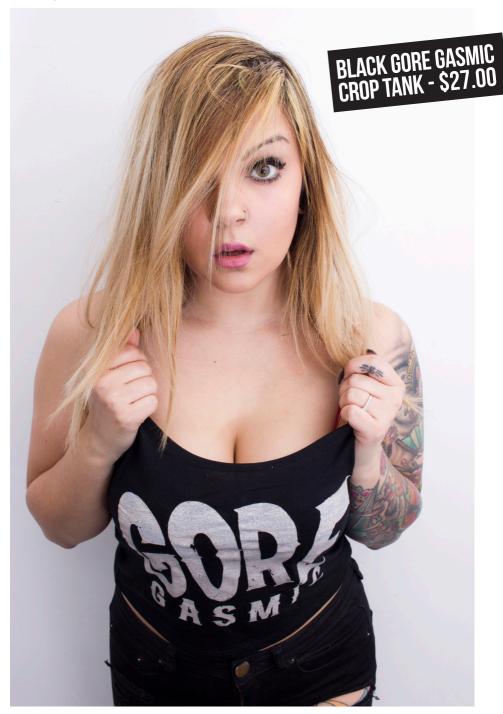












Photographer: Tripodski Jauk ase Cracie



















Hi Gracie, welcome to Elite! How did you enjoy the shoot? Hey! I loved shooting with Elite! How could I not when I had Lottii Rose with me? I was so excited to be apart of the Elite family:)

What was it like to work with Tripodski on this shoot? Where do I start haha! I had so much fun shooting with Tripodski. It was a really fun day of shooting I wish more shoots were like this.

What was it like to work with Lottii? I love working with Lottii everything is 10x more fun. Anyone who has worked with Lottii knows she's a barrel of laughs. A lot of people normally ask how long have we know each other. Truth be told me and Lottii actually went to school together but it's only been in the last 2 years we have actually got to know each other.

What's Lotti's best feature? I think we all know the answer to this one haha. It's got to be her amazing natural boobs!

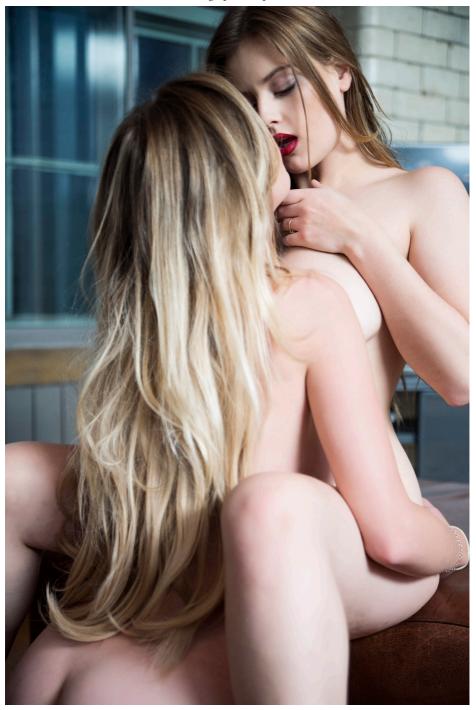
What's your best feature? If you would have asked me this question 2 years ago I would have answered with my back haha. After modelling for two years I can actually admit that my bum is my best feature.

What was the funniest thing to happen at the shoot? Haha so many things! One thing that really sticks in my mind is when me and Lottii were bending over the sofa with our bums together and her hair reaches down to her bum. Lottii goes on to say "I've got a hairy bum".

Outside of modelling, do you have any other passions? Well I'm a workaholic so I love trying to better myself and go on new business ventures. I also love travelling and exploring new places. Last but not least I have an obsession for lingerie.

So how can a guy impress you? This is a hard one haha. I guess it depends on the individual. I'm normally impressed if a guy can hold an intellectual conversation while making me laugh.

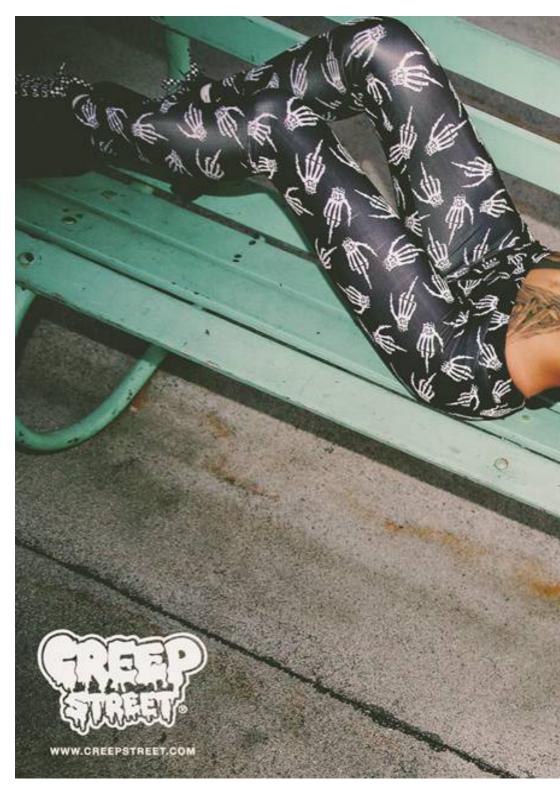
Who was your favourite model of 2016? It's obviously Lottii. I think when it comes to Lottii she really delivers on a shoot. Not only is she an amazing model she is so down to earth and just lovely. Lottii has inspired me so much as an individual and I'm sure I'm not the only one.

















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You always seem so effortless on camera, is it hard reinventing yourself for new features? It definitely wasn't effortless, you should've seen me trying to balance on the chair... Haha. Well, you tell me, this is the fifth time I've shot for Elite, do you think I'm doing an alright job? I'm always up for taking on new challenges and looks when it comes to shoots, it's what's exciting about them, no one likes to do the same stuff each time.

So you seem to be traveling everywhere these days... where has been your favourite place? Thailand, it's fucking beautiful. I went to Chiang Mai for my 21st birthday, my best friend surprised me with a trip to an elephant sanctuary where we could ride on them and wash them in a river! This was my favourite by far. I'm going to the Philippines in May with my boyfriend and some friends, I'm definitely sure this'll be able to top that by what I've seen so far.

You are without a doubt one of the most amazing people we have met! Have you always thought you wanted to model or did it just happen? What a compliment! I never thought it would be something that would happen when I was younger, but I guess you could say I "blossomed" and got my curves in the right places and thought fuck it! I've been doing it since I was 18 and absolutely love it, I've met some great people and done some insane shoots over the years too!















Photographer: Chris Beasley















Hey! Welcome to Elite, tell us a bit about yourself: Hi! I'm glad to be back! Hmm, Diablo 3 is my fave game of all time?

What was it like to work with the photographer on this shoot? Fun! Me and James have worked together plenty of times so the shoots are always great!

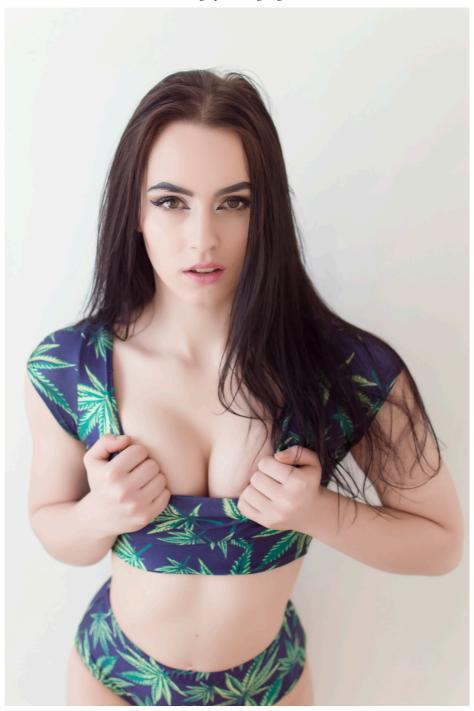
What was your favourite part of the shoot? Probably when we where finishing up and I spent ages trying to find a specific top, even though I was already wearing it! Haha!

What's your favourite part of your body and why? I like my butt, because it looks like a peach!

On a scale of one to ten, how good looking are you? Ahhh! I hate being vain! I'm gonna go with 7. It feels like a decent number.

If you could model for any brand, product or company, which would it be and why? Oh! Agent Provocateur would be nice!





ANGEL BECAUSE HE'S JUST AMAZING!

What's your favourite song currently? Right now, it's No Pity For A Coward - Suicide Silence

What would you like Elite readers to take away from your pictures in our illustrious mag? My booty obviously!

Describe your perfect photoshoot: I think it would probably be for my favourite latex brand!

How do you stay in such modelly perfect shape? Exercise? Diet? Good genes? Or luck? As I said before, I bathe in the blood of my enemies.

What do you like most about Elite? The sexy ladies! Duh!















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So Fia, did you enjoy your shoot for Elite? I had such a good day! It was really nice to meet ATOM in person.

You are a northern girl... this means you're amazing as we are northern too. Are you a proud northerner or a secret one? I am a proud Yorkshire Girl. I have WF2 tattooed to the sole of my foot. Its the first half of my Wakefield post code. Thats how proud I am <3

If you can travel anywhere else in the world, where would it be and why? I'm not a keen traveller to be honest, but I would like to visit somewhere that has forests, mountains and lakes. I like trees.

What have you been up to recently? I have been busy shooting quite a lot recently which has involved a lot of travel so me and my bestie have been exploring a few new cities. I've also worked at a few tattoo conventions which were cool.

Tell us the craziest thing you've done? I often find myself in all sorts of stupid situations, but I can't say incase my mum reads this!

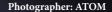












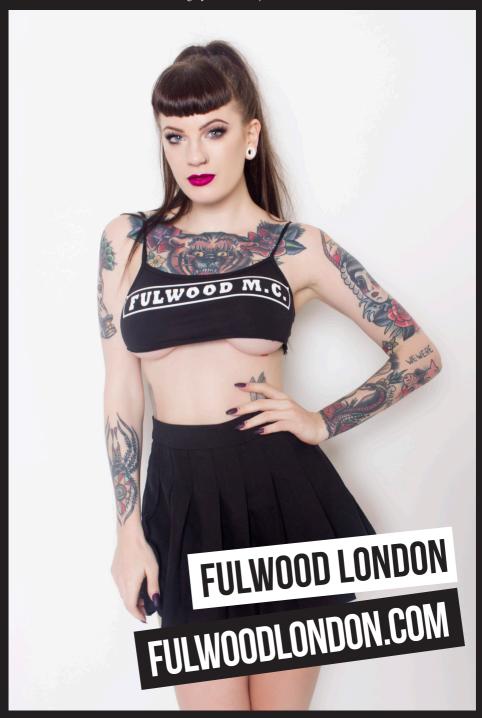
Ok standard interview question here... you are allowed to have dinner with 3 people... one has to be dead, one has to be alive and one has to be someone you want to exist but doesn't... who d you invite? I would have to invite Gordon Ramsey because he is one of my favourite people ever, watching him tell people to 'Fuck off' is amazing. I'd like to get Teresa Halbach round. She is the lady from 'Making of a Murderer'. I have so many questions for her. Lastly, I would invite Mr Poopybutthole. I'd like to invite Rick & Morty but I can't really invite just one of them because I'd feel mean.





ELITE:STYLE







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What was it like to work with the photographer on this shoot? Working with Tripodski was the funnest thing ever! He made me feel incredibly comfortable and we just had a blast. I can't wait to wok with him again.

What was your favourite part of the shoot? The best thing about the shoot was definitely how instantly at home I felt with both Tripodski and the team.

What's your favourite part of your body and why? My boobs and lips, because they are both big and whole lot of fun.

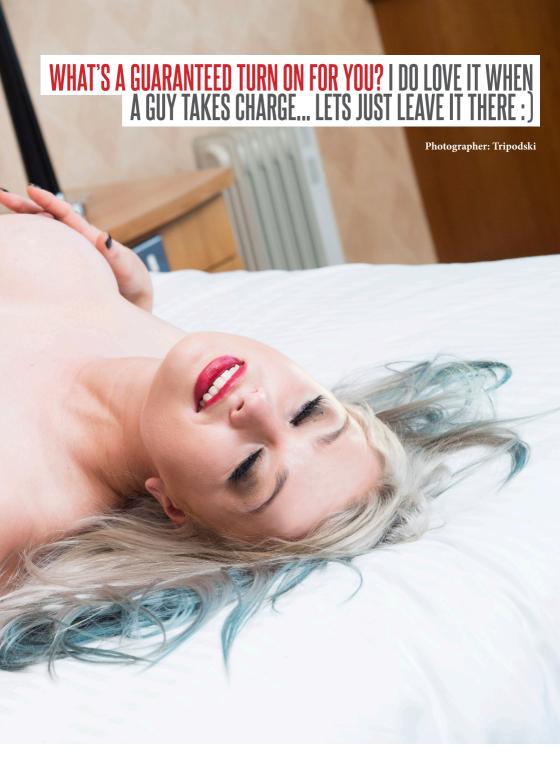
On a scale of one to ten, how good looking are you? I think I am far more goofy and awkward than elegant and good looking, but seeing as I have to give a number id go for a 7.

If you could model for any brand, product or company, which would it be and why? I suppose the girly girl in me would say Victorias Sectret, but on a more edgy scale I'd love to model for Creepyyeha.

You're hosting an Elite sponsored wrestling iellv competition. Which four celebrity combatants will you book and why? Jodie Marsh - She would totally kick ass and she always looks epic in a bikini. Rosie Huntington-Whitley - She is my all time favourite girl crush and although she seems like a polished good girl, I reckon she would rock it. Kaley Couco -Again a super cool gal who is fit and strong and would put up a good fight. Amber Heard - I think Amber would enjoy participating as much as I would enjoy watching, as she openly loves girls.















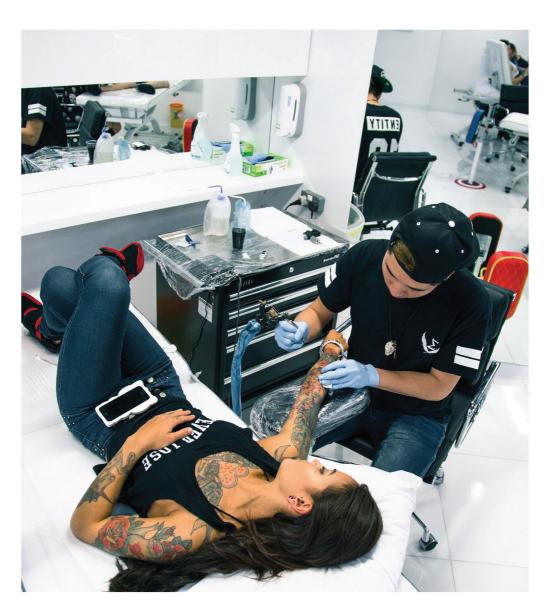








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AMANDA BIJIN

Photographer: Mike White

Hey Amanda! Welcome to Elite, tell us a bit about yourself: Hey! I'm Amanda! I'm slightly awkward, I'm a Harry Potter and Star Wars nerd. I like getting naked a lot, listening pop punk and metal and dancing terribly. I'm an alternative model and Suicide Girl hopeful trying to make a name for myself:)

What was it like to work with the photographer on this shoot? Great! I love Mike! It was a really fun shoot, lots of tunes and dancing plus great images. Would work with him every day if I could! I'm already planning to shoot with him again.

What was your favourite part of the shoot? Lunch! Haha, food controls my life! But nah the whole shoot was super fun, so it's hard to pin point.

What's your favourite part of your body and why? I like my eyes a lot and I'm working on the booty. I do get complimented on my butt a lot.

On a scale of one to ten, how good looking are you? I'd say I'm a solid 7. I still have a lot of work to do haha.

If you could model for any brand, product or company, which would it be and why? I love Killstar, so that would be awesome and I'm a big fan of Iron Fist shoes! Any excuse to wear sexy goth dresses and killer heels.





You're hosting an Elite sponsored jelly wrestling competition. Which four celebrity combatants will you book and why? Haha! I would go with Seth Rogan and Will Ferrell for the hilarity factor and then maybe Margot Robbie and Cara Delevigne because they're stunning and I wanna see them fight in Jelly. Maybe have Seth vs Will and Margo vs Cara or have each team as a boy/girl split. What could go wrong?!

What's your favourite song currently? I am obsessed with You're Welcome from the Moana soundtrack! It's brilliant! Otherwise I love Escape from Hellview by CKY as a long time good'un.

What would you like Elite readers to take away from your pictures in our illustrious mag? I'd like to think my personality comes across a bit. I hope they see a bit of cute and a nice body positive figure who likes to get naked for a job.

Describe your perfect photoshoot: Good vibes, people easy to get on with who can chat as much shit as me. Good tunes and messing around as well as getting great shots that compliment all involved! Plus being paid millions would be good.

Photographer: Mike White

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT ELITE? THE SEXY LADIES OF COURSE! ALWAYS GORGEOUS PICTURES OF GORGEOUS GIRLS, BUT ALSO THE GREAT CHOICE OF CLOTHING BRANDS AND MUSIC. ALWAYS DISCOVERING NEW STUFF FROM EACH ISSUE.

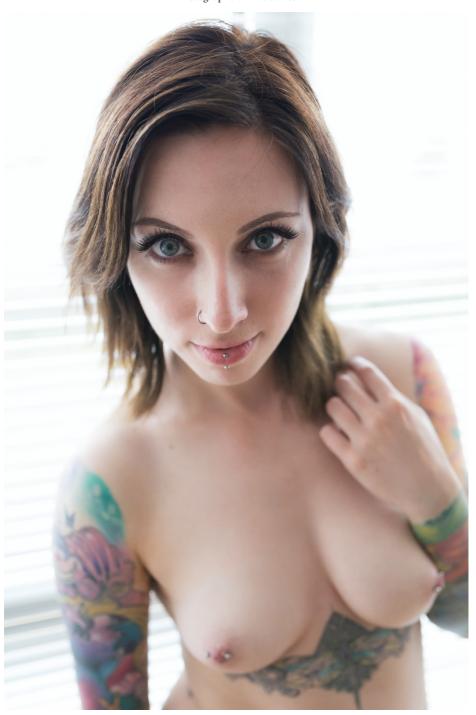
















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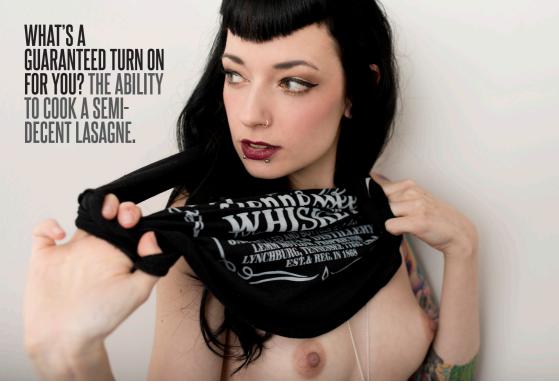












Photographer: Gemma Edwards







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Hey Selina! Welcome to Elite, tell us a bit about yourself: Hi! I'd tell you my age, but I just had my birthday so that's too embarrassing. I will tell you that I like pugs (especially my own one), make up and UK grime.

What was it like to work with the photographer on this shoot? Fun! Chris is a really nice guy and we got some good shots, even if I did accidentally give a museum worker an eyeful by accident – oops.

What was your favourite part of the shoot? Standing outside in the sun. Really missing the sun at the moment!











ELITE:STYLE



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Hey Steph! Welcome to Elite, tell us a bit about yourself: I'm a 25 year old dental nurse and part time dancer/model currently living in Newcastle:)

What was it like to work with Tripodski on this shoot? He's great! Makes the shoot fun and he even showed me some magic haha.

What was your favourite part of the shoot? Gotta be the card trick from Tripodski, I'm a sucker for magic!

What's your favourite part of your body and why? Strangely I like my back, I have those dimples at the bottom. Apparently they're sexy.

If you could model for any brand, product or company, which would it be and why? Like a sports brand so I could model gym clothes. I live in my gym stuff, it's so comfy.

You're hosting an Elite sponsored jelly wrestling competition. Which four celebrity combatants will you book? This is hard... Connor McGregor, Michelle Keegan, Margot Robbie and Tom Hardy just so I can see them all in their underwear. Is that allowed?

What's your favourite song currently? Clean Bandits - Rockabye Baby.

What would you like Elite readers to take away from your pictures in our illustrious mag? Life's too short to not do the things you love <3

Describe your perfect photoshoot: One with lots of food! Haha.

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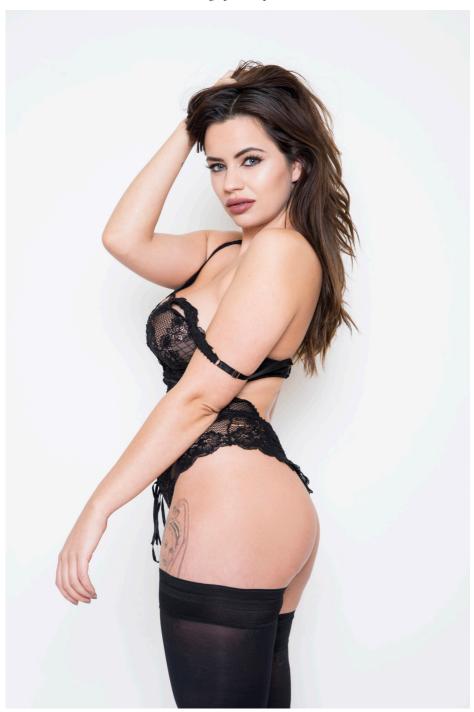


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As fans started to gather in the forum and in the main arena on a bitterly-cold evening at the Genting Arena in Birmingham, there was huge anticipation for one of the hottest tours of the year! After releasing their seventh studio album 'The Stage' back in October, metal titans 'Avenged Sevenfold' were on the UK leg of 'The Stage World Tour' accompanied by the highly-acclaimed 'Disturbed' and 'In Flames'.

First on the bill were Swedish heavy metal favourites 'In Flames'; formed in 1990 in Gothenburg by guitarist Jesper Stromblad, In Flames are known for developing what is now known as 'melodic death metal'. With a huge back catalogue of 12 studio albums, 3 EP's and 2 live DVD's, the band were not short of ideas and tracks to bring to The Stage World Tour! From the opening track 'Bullet Ride', the intense, metal riffs and melodies shook the Genting Arena with immense impact, and this was definitely appreciated by every member of the Birmingham audience. Overall, In Flames played a nice 8-track set list with highlights such as 'Leeches', 'The End' and 'Paralyzed', and they certainly showed why they are still one of the best bands in Metal music today!

Up next were arguably one of the greatest metal bands ever to exist; originating from Chicago, Illinois, 'Disturbed' have been on the metal music scene for over 22 years, and are fronted by the iconic David Draiman. With 5 of their 6 studio albums debuting at number 1 in the Billboard 200 chart, Disturbed have established themselves as one of the top metal bands of all time. The band opened with their track 'The Eve of the Storm,' and from the very first bar, it was obvious that the Birmingham crowd were in for a serious treat of a set! The beautiful blend of David Draiman's howling vocals with guitar riffs from Dan Donegan, groovy bass lines from John Moyer, and blistering drum rhythms from Mike Wengren was so consistent and mind blowing! The band delivered the most perfect performance, and with a 15-track

(hour long) set list including a spine-tingling offering of 'The Sound of Silence' with a string section, and other tracks such as 'The Vengeful One', 'Stricken' and 'Down With The Sickness', this was easily one of the greatest, all-round performances I had ever seen in my gigging life!

It was now time for the main event; from sunny Huntington Beach in California it was of course 'Avenged Sevenfold'. Formed in 1999, Avenged quickly established themselves as one of the hottest metal bands on the planet with the release of their debut album 'Sounding the Seventh Trumpet'. After recently releasing their 7th studio album 'The Stage', this tour was the perfect chance for the band to showcase their new material as well as playing their old classics for hardcore fans.

Avenged kicked off their set with the title track from their new album 'The Stage', and you could tell that these guys were vastly experienced, and were very confident performers on stage. Again, there was a mouth-watering blend of guitar riffs from Synyster Gates, as well as funky bass lines from Johnny Christ and bellowing drum rhythms from Brooks Wackerman. The band played a 15-track set list and 3 track encore with a lot of new and old material, but the highlights were definitely 'Afterlife', 'Hail to the King', 'Chapter Four' and 'Unholy Confessions' just to name a few. This was a solid performance from the metal titans, but you could tell that the Birmingham audience appreciated their older rather than their newer material!

Overall, Avenged delivered a solid, high-octane performance, but Disturbed could have easily headlined the tour, and definitely stole the show in my eyes!

Words by Kristofer Billingham



Atari Teenage Riot (ATR) have long been considered pioneers of frantic, punk influenced electronic music. Having helped coin the term "Digital Hardcore", one man was at the centre of it all. Alec Empire, an established solo artist, composer, producer and DJ in his own right, has inspired many artists and music lovers with his creative musical stylings and his passion for anarchy. We caught up with Alec at the tail end of ATR's 2016 tour to get inside the head of a digital revolutionist.

How did the ATR/Digital Hardcore sound come about and what influenced it?

The digital hardcore sound is basically everything that was released on Digital Hardcore Recordings, the label. When we started, journalists and music fans felt that the music we released didn't fit any of the existing categories because it was not just a mix of two genres or a slight variation of a genre. When I look back now, I would say that digital hard-core takes many genres to a new extreme; transports it into the digital age.

Usually, people think that Atari Teenage Riot is what digital hardcore is. That's not quite correct. If you listen to other artists like Christoph De Babalon, Cobra Killer, Shizuo and all the others, it gets more complex. The stereotype digital hardcore track is a fast distorted beat around 140-200 BPM, with noise,

guitar samples and female screaming. It's true that this formula was invented by us but even when you look at early Atari Teenage Riot, there are many songs that don't fit that description. Listen to "Death Star" or "Western Decay". Many of the early cut up breakbeats were taken to their extremes in the digital hardcore scene first. Sonic Subjunkies, Alec Empire/ The Destroyer and DJ Bleed. I think this is why the early productions have influenced many artists from the guys at Warp like Aphex Twin and Squarepusher to even The Prodigy.

We think more like hackers and less like traditional musicians, which is perhaps why many hackers listen to Atari Teenage Riot. We reflect that scene and its philosophy. "Delete Yourself" was our first album, the song itself is from 1992. It was a warning about a possible surveillance state that would look like what Orwell wrote about in his book "1984" but using technology to control people's behaviour and censor them. To many, the lyrics look like a strange prophecy from another time now. Not so strange if you know how the Nazis used technology to organise the holocaust. We always need to be aware of that.

As well as the music that influenced the ATR sound and other similar acts whom you influenced, do you listen to anything that people might not expect from you? Most music I listen to is actually very different to my own. Right now I listen to Mendelssohn and Jaron Lanier a lot.

How would you describe the progression of the ATR sound since the first single to the Reset album? Has the change in line up affected it and if so, how?

ATR's DNA never changes, but every song is unique because of its message. Some people want to understand or judge Atari Teenage Riot by applying outdated comparisons. One thing people need to understand: The music is programmed on an Atari 1040ST computer so the music doesn't just randomly happen. It is very different to punk. The chaos is programmed and no accident because some people were in the same room together. We actually never spent that much time making music together. Not in 1992 and not now. Everyone works in isolation on their parts. This also explains why Atari Teenage Riot sounds like it does. Every individual member of Atari Teenage Riot brought something unique to the table. It doesn't make sense to compare CX Kidtronik to Carl Crack or MC Destroy. Or Hanin Elias to Nic Endo. Because they are all very different artists. A good start to seeing that is to listen to what each member does solo.

Speaking of which, your solo work predates the band and has been ongoing. For you, what parts in your life do the two projects fulfill?

It's easy to answer...I just spontaneously decide what I want to do. Nic Endo feels the same. We never focus on just Atari Teenage Riot or our solo works. We make music all the time.

You also do remixes and soundtracks/scores. How did you get into that sort of work? Was it something you always thought of doing?

When I started releasing music, all these offers kept coming in. Every remix I have done so far, happened because another artist loved my music and asked me for a remix. From Björk to Primal Scream. I always loved music and film and how they work together. So I decided early on that I would score a film when I liked it. I am a huge fan of strange movies. The history of electronic music wouldn't be what it is today without film scores. From John Carpenter to Vangelis. Films like Logan's Run from the 70s or The Thing are good examples.

ATR split back in 2001 but you and Nic (Endo) were always still working together in one way or another.

Was starting ATR up again always on the cards?

We didn't want to bring back Atari Teenage Riot in 2010. We were on a very different path. I was doing film scores and produced artists like Patrick Wolf and remixed Gary Numan and IAMX. I had released an Alec Empire solo album called "Shivers" and it was very different from Atari Teenage Riot and Digital Hardcore. First we only planned to play one show in London and then move on. But then the political climate changed after the financial crisis, Occupy was about to start, hacker activism also had a huge impact. A lot of young people were inspired by ATR's message. Suddenly it felt like we had to write new songs about what was going on. Steve Aoki offered us a deal for his label Dim Mak Records. EDM was just about to take off and it all felt right but we were only thinking 3 months ahead. We still do. We can stop any day if we want to.

Although Digital Hardcore is quite a niche genre, ATR as a band and yourself as an artist manage to satisfy drum n bass, metal, punk and rave fans alike. While touring the world, where do you have the biggest fan base and/or tend to get the best reception?

That always changes. Timing is often very important here. Fans usually react very similarly to our live shows. They participate in it. We play all kinds of shows. From big festivals where we perform in front of 30.000 people to small punk rock venues with 400 people or so. We love every type of venue. Last summer we played in Colombia in front of 80.000 people and there was a giant moshpit. It was a great night. But when we played Tel Aviv which was far smaller of course, we loved that too. I think as a musician you must be able to adapt to your audience. If you just repeat the same thing, it will not work. We come from the underground in the 90s, so we can play to a small crowd and it doesn't feel like the stage is too small for us. But of course on the big stages, that's where Atari Teenage Riot becomes another experience. One is not better or worse, it's just different.

Besides the musical style, your political views and social commentary has always been an important factor. How affective a tool do you think the medium of music is for getting one's message across?

Music is a very effective tool. It is the only medium that can reach people emotionally first before the mind starts to understand it. We keep saying that music is a weapon. We believe that. Over the decades we have

met so many people who changed their lives after they listened to our music. That's always amazing to hear.

On your most recent tour, you played a show in Tel Aviv, Israel. This has caused some controversy online where you had to defend the country from boycotters and even the Israeli left-wing. Why were you so adamant to play Israel?

I am very pro-Israel. Many people on the Left never liked that about me and I have made quite a few enemies over the decades because of that. Interviews were canceled, business opportunities were lost, musical collaborations had to be ended. I don't have to mention Neo-Nazis because it's obvious what their world view is

Collectivism is always a threat to each individual. I see myself as an anarchist libertarian. So I am not part of the left/right thing in politics. I try to see it from an objectivist viewpoint. I have lived my life, made my decisions based on two basic principles: 1.) Never work, live or spend time with anti-semites. To deny the Jewish people the right to self-determination (to me that means, in reality, self-governing - having a state) is anti-semitic. There are enough reasons why Israel had to be re-established - one is the evidence of how much damage anti-semitism can do, not only to Jewish people but to a whole society. Germany was almost completely destroyed because of antisemitism. I would even argue that the Democrats lost the US election because they allowed anti-semitism to undermine their credibility. Pick people in your life wisely. When someone starts singling out Jews and Israel, points fingers and blames them for all evils in the world, you cut ties and walk away. Because these types of people are destined for destruction and failure. 2.) When you see a socialist come your way, run in the opposite direction as fast as you can. Don't waste your time. The history of zionism has inspired me since I was a kid. Of course, sitting in West-Berlin surrounded by the Berlin Wall back then, I probably idealised it a lot. Bob Marley, Martin Luther King, all these great people spoke about it. To me the fact that the Jewish people who were expelled from their homeland, returned and took back control and built a country like Israel is so amazing. Perhaps the most exciting story ever. I call it a blue print for freeing oneself from oppression and slavery.

When I visited Israel for the first time in 2014 and arrived in Jerusalem, I was very moved. And then I came back to Berlin...the BDS mob had waited for me

online. I had become a target on Twitter and Facebook, a few hundred BDS 'activists' bullied me, sent me death threats for days. It was insane. To my surprise nobody came to help. People stood by like cowards and watched. I cut ties to about 150 people that I knew in the Berlin music scene alone after that but I had an advantage; I knew how to deal with bullies, I have a long experience and it doesn't get to me. It's the opposite. I love walking towards the fire. I don't care about approval of the collective, peer pressure or anything like that. If something is wrong, and I have to fight it alone, I will do it. So when we announced the show in Tel Aviv, I thought we can ignore these people and simply block them but then I decided to respond, so our fans were able to understand what we are dealing with here. And we received a lot of positive feedback, mostly in the form of email or direct messages.

To me cultural dialogue is everything. It is why I exist. So BDS is a threat to my existence. Nobody needs to panic about BDS. BDS is a magnet for charlatans and con artists because it is based on deception and lies. That's why they are failing. If they manage to get to a popular artist, then it's because the artist doesn't have knowledge about Israel. When someone who is smart looks deeper into what's actually happening in Israel and why, even travels there... he/she will find out the truth and see that he/she was tricked by jew haters. In my opinion, Israelis have very critical views of their government, they can handle the political challenges they face. I am convinced that Israel needs our support more than ever right now! What it doesn't need is 'criticism' from amateur leftists who were incited by some "Free Palestine" blog or something and then call for the destruction of Israel and indirectly promote killing Jews with that.

Is there anywhere you haven't played that you really wish to play one day?

Now that we've played Tel Aviv, we would love to go back and play other places in Israel one day.

What are both your and ATR's plans for the upcoming future?

We are recording a new album at the moment and the next shows are scheduled for Spring 2017. My new album, the soundtrack to the film Volt, is also out on 3rd February through Dependant Records.

Words by Jonathan Miller

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IN FLAMES

Despite being one of the most dividing Metal bands of the last two decades, Swedish Melo-Death pioneers In Flames have passed the test of time with ease. Now, 27 years and 12 albums later, they are still going hard with their newest endeavour "Battles" which was released in November 2016. Proving that after all these years they still manage to stay original and not repeat their selves. We caught up with lead singer Anders Fridén to talk about the new album, how touring has changed over the years and how technology is a two-sided sword.

What's it like being on tour with Avenged Sevenfold and Disturbed? How's the album being received?

Really good! We're having a really good time. The other bands are cool, too. It was slightly difficult, though, because we're only playing a 40 minute set and it's hard to make a set-list if you have twelve albums, you know? But we just got out there and did what we always do. There was no pressure or anything and we get the chance to play in front of a lot of people. People that might not have heard us before so we just go out there and do the best we can and try to grab a win, you know?

The album's been received really good so far. I mean, we only play two songs of "Battles" because we want to ease people in but maybe we will play all of it, eventually, over the course of this touring cycle but the feedback so far has been really good! They fit really well with the other songs.

Is there a specific approach you take to select the songs for the set-list?

We decided to go for more of the later material because the chance that you get the more Hardcore or Metal people is not that high on this tour due to Avenged Sevenfold and Disturbed being on it. We thought if we dig out all of our Melo-Death stuff that we have it might be a bit too heavy to fit the tour. If they hear a song like "Cloud Connected" for example and they like it they can go search for the song and that is when they find out that we've got 12 albums. If I was in the audience hearing us for the first time and I'd like it I think it would be awesome to then check out the rest of this band and find out that there is a lot that I can listen to. I'd be really stoked! That's, like, the sort of strategy here. (laughs)

So you made it more suitable for this specific tour?

I mean, all of our songs come out a bit more aggressive live than they do on the albums. Just because there's an audience there and brings a whole different kind of energy to it than when you're in the studio in front of a dead mic or an amp, you know? I just think it makes more sense if everyone hears the later material and then goes searching for the heavy roots.

You know, I'd really like us to be some sort of "gateway" band for people who are just discovering this entire world of heavy music because I had a lot of these bands growing up. I remember Iron Maiden was my gateway into heavier stuff...and then I got into Thrash music, and then I got into Speed Metal, then Death Metal and so on and that opened up a whole new world for me.

Have your own inspirations or influences changed with time?

I mean, of course you discover new bands and things all the time and there's tonnes of new stuff that I really like but I don't know if they influenced me like the ones I've listened to in the early days. I'm still interested in stuff, though. I read magazines or go to a record store to search for new stuff but that's more the actual music nerd in me, rather than the guy who writes music for In Flames. I mean I love bands like Alice In Chains, Nine Inch Nails or Tool But I don't think that these bands are within the sound of In Flames. It's always been that mixture of the classics that we were listening to back then. But I am pretty sure that it's happening subconsciously. I mean the music that you listen to before you go into the rehearsal room will influence what you write that day. It's inevitable!

What was it like working with [Howard] Benson on the album? You stated that this is the first time you let someone in on the creative process of the album.

Well...we still had a solid idea of what we wanted the record to sound like but we had to let go off the guard that we always had. We never let anyone into our music. Record companies, producers, whatever. NOBODY apart from the band had a say in the writing process. We've definitely worked with some amazing people before but with Benson it was slightly different. For example he wanted to hear demos of all of our songs but he said from the very beginning: "I don't want to change you guys. I just want to make

you better!" So when we played him the demos he had a few points here and there but he would still let us do our songs and our music. It would always be just small, technical things. His team was very good as well. They made things really easy.

In your own words: What makes your new album "Battles" different than your last record "Siren Charms"?

I think it has more warmth. There's more riffing in it and it's more guitar orientated than Siren Charms along with the more up-tempo parts. All of the individual parts shine through a lot more. I also feel like "Battles" has bigger choruses. It just fits to where we are as a band at the moment. It has all the elements of our older stuff but it definitely feels warmer compared to Siren Charms. Probably because "Battles" was recorded in sunny California whereas "Siren Charms" was recorded in Berlin in November so it sounds a lot colder sonically which was great at the time because that's what we wanted. I was happy with how "Siren Charms" turned out. It was necessary but we tried to do something else this time.

Being in a band for almost 30 years now, is there anything you would've done differently in retrospect?

I don't think so. I mean I surpassed all of my goals and dreams, you know? I didn't even think that I would be in a band for so long. Definitely not in a band that created all of these albums. I don't want to change anything. I think that's just a waste of energy. I think that you live with the decisions you make and I mean, sure, we could be a bigger band but we could definitely also be a smaller band. Fuck it, you know? We had a great ride and I'm super pleased with where we are now. We still enjoy it. That's the beauty of everything. I still LOVE what we do. For me this was a hobby that turned into a job and I'd rather do that for my whole life than go back for a single week.

I'm aware of that whole talk about old In Flames vs. new In Flames or whatever and I sort of get it. But if we released the same album over and over again I don't think we would be here. We strived to do something a little bit new all the time but at the same keep what is the essence of In Flames and that's the melody. We always tried to go for good melodies. We just ended up in a different costume. A different production, maybe. But that constant search for something new and something that will challenge yourself. That's what's been keeping this whole machine running throughout the years.

IN FLAMES

It's the same with playing shows, you know. If you start feeling like it's a drag and a bit boring and you don't really get that fire any more, that's when I think that you should quit. You have bad days sometimes but that doesn't mean anything. You get that in every job.

Has touring become easier or harder over the years?

Technically speaking, I don't have to do anything. I get a mic before I go on stage and that's it. So I really can't complain.

So that has definitely become easier compared to the earlier days.

These days you have to tour so much more because bands just don't sell that many albums any more and there's only so many shows that people can go to so everybody's just out trying to catch people's attention. So that's definitely a tough change but touring itself hasn't become harder. We have a great crew that we've worked with for a really long time now and the people who are in the band right now really want to be in this band as well. Things are just smooth now. Like a clockwork.

Considering that you've all got families. How do you manage to handle touring and family responsibilities?

I think that's definitely easier today because of technology and the internet. There's things like Skype today so I could just be in the tour bus on the highway somewhere and still be able to talk to my kids at home instead of waiting for a fucking payphone at some truck stop like it was in the early days. The internet has definitely helped!

But then again the kids have their own daily routine that they have to follow as well. We try to keep it as normal as possible but you miss them of course. Of course I also have a wonderful second half who's taking care of everything.

The thing with all of that is that no one can tell you how to do it. You and your family have to figure it out yourself but I do believe that we're handling it quite well.

Your music video for "The Truth" shows a child being 'rescued' by other children from being stuck behind a computer screen. Is this your general view on technology or do you believe that it can be beneficial as well?

I think it's really beneficial! I think we have to adapt to the situation that we have. Anything can be used in a good way if used correctly. Parents see their kids playing video games and start being worried wondering what the fuck their kids are doing and try to get them to stop doing it and I think that's completely wrong! You should be part of your children"s interest and you can't just question everything all the time. If their kids played football all day their parents would be super proud but if they play computer games they'll get really angry but you never know. Their kids might make this their job one day in one way or another. I just think we should be careful not to lose our humanity to technology. As long as we're still people it's going to be fine.

Social media is a different thing for me, though. Ever since it has become such a big part of our daily routine I feel like there's a much less friendly climate between all of us. People have Instagram to show that they're on a nice vacation or just how good their life might be and we write and comment and everyone thinks they're some kind of fucking internet police. Everyone know better than the other and stuff like that. People are people and we need real interaction. To hide behind a nickname to write some bad stuff is a step backwards not forwards. That's the other side of technology.

Words by Niklas Benedum



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ELITE:REVIEW



As The Sun Sleeps - As Good As Gold Unsigned | Release Date: 20th January 2017

2016 wasn't the best year for the pop punk scene but the start of 2017 promises a lot. One of the first releases this year comes from not-so-sunny Swindon from the boys in As The Sun Sleeps. Now most of us like a drink or two so opener 'Beering' is a refreshingly honest track to ease us in. The chorus flows on a pogo rhythm and bounce, coupled with guitarist Tom Rees infectious leads makes for a winning combination. 'Florida' contains one of the coolest and most confident lyrics of the year with vocalist Joe Beck stating, "I know we're not from Florida, we don't surf but we make waves".

The great thing about this EP is it sits firmly on the punk side of the fence with crunchy guitars and Tom Shrimpton's ability to inject pace into the songs to propel them along. Fans of The Story So Far and Knuckle Puck will definitely dig the likes of 'Forever Sick' and the grand finale of 'Nothing But Net'. Beck and guitarist James Broadbank trading off vocals in one of the records softer moments, "Six feet under, I should've left". As Good As Gold is full of confidence, well produced and varied, it manages to have some balls and not sound wet like a lot of other pop punk around these days.

Words by Joshua Clarke





Code Orange - Forever Roadrunner Records | Release Date: 13th January 2017

Code Orange have been slowly building a reputation over the past few years with their incendiary live shows and menacing slabs of hardcore. Despite still being fairly young the band have mature heads on their shoulders, so how does this come across in new record Forever?

The title track disturbingly starts us off and the opening riff makes you move, its inescapable. Older fans of the band will be happy to hear that the quartet still knock out heavy as sin guitar riffs and Jami Morgan's and Eric Balderose's vocal trade off is still as devastating as ever. 'Kill The Creator' brings the energy and the start of the experiments. Halfway through the blistering opening segment everything goes soft, quiet, before steaming back into action. The effects don't stop there as the culmination of the song goes from screeching guitars to bomb like explosions. Potential stand out track and biggest surprise comes in the form of 'Bleeding In The Blur', Reba Meyers vocals taking centre stage to throwback to the best nu metal had to offer in the early noughties.

The record steam rolls through and the ideas keep on coming, this is a remarkable piece of work from such young minds. It's exciting, it's fresh, it's everything we want in 2017. Sure their will undoubtedly be people who cry "sell outs" but those people need to stop living in the past and wake the fuck up. Code Orange is forever.

Words by Joshua Clarke



ELITE:REVIEW



Frank Carter and the Rattlesnakes - Modern Ruin
International Death Cult/KLS | Release Date: 20th
January 2017

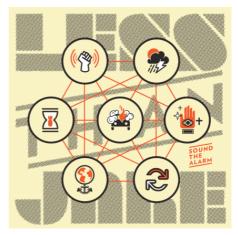
Modern Ruin is beautifully hypnotic.

From its chilling opener Bluebelle, to its stunning closer Neon Rust, Frank Carter and his band of Rattlesnakes tick every box on the 'How to make a belter of a follow up' list. Lead tracks Lullaby, Snake Eyes and most recently, Wild Flowers, still pack the same ferocious punch they did the first time you heard them and title track Modern Ruin is so grizzly it's threatening. It's in the belly of the beast, however, that you find the real reason Modern Ruin will be considered one of best albums 2017 has to offer. Its fleshy middle made of God Is My Friend and Jackals showcase the chaos that Frank Carter creates so naturally, whilst the blood in its veins are the lyrics embedded in the likes of Thunder and Real Life. It is evidently clear that the carnage cannot exist without the lyrical counterpart which so elegantly envelopes raw passion.

Where 2015 saw debut album, Blossom, spitting relentless venom to an angry soundtrack, Modern Ruin refines that anger into something more accessible to all without losing that trademark Rattlesnakes sound. Even after a twentieth listen, Modern Ruin still sounds as honest and breathtaking as the first time around. It's a masterpiece, and to behold it in any of its many formats will be a special experience for any fan.

Words by Alice Hoddinott





Less Than Jake - Sound The Alarm EP
Pure Noise Records | Release Date: 3rd February 2017

Gainesville ska punk legends, Less Than Jake, are back with new seven track EP, Sound The Alarm; their debut release for Pasadena based Pure Noise Records. The likes of opening track Call To Arms and Good Sign showcase the band's more upbeat and catchy punk rock side. Bomb Drop is particularly impressive, with a brass section melody more reminiscent of Mighty Mighty Bosstones and a memorable, bouncy chorus. Songs like Welcome To My Life and Years Of Living Dangerously provide the relaxed, sunny ska vibes, with the latter's leading guitar melody sounding like it could belong to a song by reggae-rock band 311.

Due to how the tracks are ordered, whether coincidentally or purposely, Sound The Alarm has a clever balance of light and heavy which keeps you listening. With ska punk generally not being as popular today as it was in the 90s and the early 2000s, this may not gain them a new crowd but will definitely keep the fans more devoted. They might not be taking it back to the faster, old school sound some have been hoping for but Sound The Alarm is a perfect representation of the more eclectic Less Than Jake of the last 15 years. It is actually quite a shame that it's only an EP.

Words by Jonathan Miller





Memoriam - Hellfire Demos II Nuclear Blast Records | Release Date: 20th January 2017

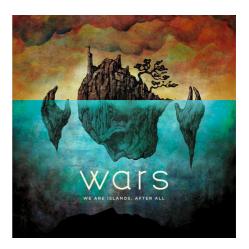
When Memoriam announced their formation, fans of UK extreme metal rejoiced at the thought of members of the likes Bolt Thrower, Sacrilege and Benediction joining forces to record new music and when the first recordings of this union were released, the results were as good as was hoped with their brand of old school death metal sounding as good today as it did in the heyday of their former bands and rather than sounding like a throwback, the bands music sounded fresh and vital and this continued on the Hellfire demos II.

With the release of the bands eagerly awaited debut album For The Fallen coming soon, they have released this second volume of demo songs to whet the appetites of fans who are rabid for mire fresh Memoriam material and this two tracker does not disappoint.

The two tracks on this release, Drone Strike and Surrounded (By Death) are proper slabs of death metal with a nod to Discharge in there too and some fine anti war lyrics and even though the versions of the songs are in demo form, it is testament to the talent of the band that it doesn't matter and that rawness gives the songs a definite energy. The band are on fine form on this brief but brilliant glimpse into the Memoriam sound with vocalist Karl Willets sounding as powerful and commanding as ever and the release of the new album cannot come soon enough.

Words by Gavin Brown





wars - We Are Islands, After All Spinefarm Records | Release Date: 27th January 2017

Coming out Rugby (the town not the sport) is newcomers wars. The band are gearing up to release their new album, We Are Islands, After All. Quietly and slowly building into it is opener 'The Art of Not Knowing' with a hefty slab of groove and bounce to get the juices flowing. This theme on riffin' continues and makes for an energetic listening experience however the cliche vocal trade off only helps to sit this in with the rest of a scene thats over populated. Saying that, 'That By Discord Things Increase' is one of the stand out moments with a well placed and surprising chorus melody and sense of grandeur that this band are capable of more. The problem with this album? We've heard it all before, multiple times. Sure there's big riffs, pounding drums and harsh vocals but this is just another cut and paste metalcore act, if thats what your about then this is worth checking out. But if your looking for music with longevity and a hint of a future then look elsewhere.

Words by Joshua Clarke



ELITE:REVIEW



You Me At Six - Night People
BMG | Release Date: 6th January 2017

You Me At Six have always been the underdogs. The trio of albums which made the rock world fall in love with them were all glimmering with stardom, whilst fourth album, Cavalier Youth, saw them experiment with a more grown up sound. It was exciting, something that left you wanting more. Night People, sadly, extinguishes the bright spark that You Me At Six have possessed for so long.

The sound throughout Night People is one of a lack lustre drag. Many of the songs blur into one, particularly the softer numbers such as Take On The World and Give. Where normally Josh Franceschi's smoother than butter vocal would leave you wanting more, it instead falls short. Swear has potential to be an album highlight, but unnecessary synths means it's a grower more than anything else. Even Can't Hold Back is just lacking that bite that You Me At Six are great at giving. Instead, it all just feels a little boring. However, there are moments which restore your faith; title track, Night People, and Plus One are as true as You Me At Six stay to themselves with this album. They're fun songs and will fit nicely in a setlist of much loved favourites from years past.

Night People feels like a 10 year old child trying on their parents clothes, mimicking everything they aspire to be, but falling short. Like those children, You Me At Six should stick to what their best at, being young and fun and most of all, being the underdogs.

Words by Alice Hoddinott





NEW AND UNSIGNED

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Since appearing on the live scene in 2014, Birmingham based female-fronted melodic metalcore band, Secrets of Mariana they have released two ep's, a music video and captured the attention of crowds in many of Birmingham's venues and beyond, playing with the likes of LostAlone, I Saw the World Burn, The Face Of Ruin, Occoeur, Black Asteroids and many more!

www.facebook.com/SecretsOfMariana www.secretsofmariana.bandcamp.com www.twitter.com/SoMOfficialUK www.instagram.com/somofficial

Introduce yourself! Who are you and where did it all begin? We're Secrets of Mariana a Female Fronted Melodic Metalcore band from Birmingham. The band formed in 2012 when Amy, Ash and Nick started writing together, after a multitude of line up changes eventually Jay and Matt joined the band. In 2014 we started performing live and released our first E.P. 'Reach'. Fast forward to 2017 we released our second E.P. 'No Escape' last year, were booking shows around the country this year and continuing to write new material.

How would you describe your sound in just 3 words? Heavy, Melodic, Catchy.

What has been your biggest highlight as a band so far? Our E.P. release show last year at the Flapper & Firkin for our second EP, 'No Escape' The lineup consisted of The Face of Ruin, Black Asteroids and Genesis Arch who are all great bands and friends of ours, the place was packed it was mental.

Looking back at every song you've ever written as a band, which is your favourite to play and why? 'Eat me Alive' because it was the first song that we wrote from scratch collectively as a band rather than one person bringing finished material for everyone to learn.

If you could play at any festival in the world, where would you pick? To play any festival would be great but Download would be amazing because most of us have been several times.

Who are your biggest musical influences? That's a hard one really as we all have such different and eclectic tastes, for example Matt's a big thrash metal fan and Nick loves pop-punk, how we ever agree on anything is a miracle.

If you could form a 'super group' with any other band, who would you pick? That's another hard one but if we did it on a local level probably Occeour, there a female fronted rock band from Birmingham their killer and good friends of ours.

What would be your ideal tour line-up? We'd probably all give you different answers as we all have our own favourite bands, but realistically it would have to be someone who is in a similar vein to us so maybe Killswitch Engage as their very melodic as well as heavy or Flyleaf as they have the aggressive female vocal style like we do.

What can we expect to see and hear from you in the future? Lots of gigs were currently booking ourselves up for the rest of the year, were hoping to tour towards the end of the year or early next year and you can definitely expect some new material from us in the near future.

ELITE: UPRISING

ESTRONS

Estrons embody girl power. Make A Man and I'm Not Your Girl put females in the driving seat and it feels fucking good. Leading lady Tali has a voice that is as much laced with warning as it is with enchantment and against frantic indie guitars, it makes for a cocktail of moreish noise. Hailing from Cardiff, Estrons are already packing a punch, with bands such as Circa Waves giving them humbled support slots on big stages. They're set to continue their success this year with a full UK tour taking them to some rad venues throughout February. Top tip: give Drop a listen and then put them on repeat for a week.



FUOCO

What can be said about Fuoco that is tangible and makes sense? Not a lot really. This Brighton two piece are known around town for their weird progressive mumblings and riffs which leave audiences bewildered. Bewildered in the good way of course. Early songs such as Fluoxetine are trippy grunge that will pull you in, whilst the likes of My Girl are more developed and will make you crave more. With new EP Kape Kinevil available now, there's no reason not to get lost in the world of Fuoco. Good luck, one and all...



VUKOVI

If you ran a rainbow through an amp you'd get VUKOVI. They're a Scottish four-piece overflowing with sugary pop-tinged rock that is super fun to play at maximum volume. Most recent release La Di Da will get in your head and make your limbs start moving in ways you didn't know they could, whilst the likes of Boy George and Animal will get your hips rolling in an all too rock n roll fashion. The bottom line is they're going to make waves in 2017, with their debut album dropping in early March, so get on board now, you won't regret it!



Words by Alice Hoddinott



HUNTER KILL HUNTER

Hailing from London, we caught up with Justin & Kieran of self proclaimed energetic & exciting fivepiece rock-band, Hunter Kill Hunter.

For anyone who hasn't yet heard of Hunter Kill Hunter, describe yourselves in 3 words:

Justin: Provocative, informative, truth. *Kieran:* Zealous, impassioned, rock.

You are releasing your new EP 'II' on 2nd December, what can fans expect to hear from that?

Justin: Something similar to our first EP but developed. A nice blend of all of our influences which battle personal issues, but it also gives an observation and commentary on what is currently happening in the world at the moment.

Kieran: They can expect a noticeable development from our debut, definitely. It's still us, but I feel that we found ourselves and our identity as a musical collective in the writing of this second EP. The songs to us feel more ambitious, there is a clear merge between heavier influences and an omnipresent pop sensibility.

Lyrically you certainly stand apart from other bands of similar genres, how do you go about putting new tracks together? What influences you?

Justin: The approach is knowing what you want to say. Most of my lyrics come from realising and acknowledging the things that cause an emotional response - then it's basically attempting to get these emotions across in a song. There are so many things going on in the world, positive and negative and these are things that shape us.

Kieran: First off, thank you. The process tends to vary, but for me it generally starts with getting ideas down and demoing alone before I bring it to the rest of the band. Once I've got something I'm happy with I'll put it forward, then we start working on it together. Justin and Stu will lay down vocal parts and lyrics and we'll all work out how we're going to play it - the songs usually go through a lot of scrutiny and changes before we're settled on something. Influences change constantly as well, but usually it's what ever



bands I'm listening to at the time and my emotional state that will dictate what my ideas sound like.

What has been the biggest highlight of being a band so far?

Justin: The highlight has been meeting and having the opportunity to play with bands and people we've not met before and them being really appreciative of our bands existence. When you write music you can only hope that people like it, so it's nice to have that acknowledgement.

Kieran: Basically what Justin said. It's awesome meeting new people all the time through playing together, whether they're in bands or have just come down to a show.

If you could go on tour supporting any band, who would you pick?

Justin: That is too hard to choose, and because we have so many different influences in our band it would be difficult to pick one, but I'd definitely love to delve in deep with those bands that are consistently touring. Big influences of mine are Every Time I Die and Paramore. Vastly different bands, but we'd love to achieve what they have gig wise and music wise over the years.

Kieran: Don Broco, Letlive, Marmozets - I'd love to tour with any of those bands, it's hard to pick just one.

What can we expect to see from you going into 2017?

Justin: Gigs! And hopefully more music!

Kieran: We'll be gigging and touring a lot - that's our plan. Gig and tour on this release until it feels appropriate to work on new music. We're looking to release a second single and music video from the EP in the first part of 2017 as well, but for the most part you can expect to see us playing around the country!

Words by Alice Blenkinsop

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